

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T WARSAW 0504

WARNING NOTICE-SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND
METHODS INVOLVED.

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, MASS, PL, XG
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENTAL STUDY OF THIRD-WORLD, CONVENTIONAL-
ARMS-SUPPLY RESTRAINTS

REF STATE 011673, STATE 015027

1. SUMMARY. POLAND IS A SUPPLIER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT
TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA BUT INFORMATION ABOUT ARMA-
MENTS SALES OR TRANSFERS IS PUBLISHED HERE ONLY RARELY.
EMBASSY FILES CONTAIN VERY LITTLE QUESTION TO GUIDE
US IN RESPONDING TO THE QUESTIONS POSED IN
STATE 011673. END SUMMARY.

2. POLAND HAS SOLD INDIA 50 ISKRA JET TRAINERS. ADDI-
TIONALLY, POLAND PRODUCES AND EXPORTS SEVERAL LIGHT
GENERAL-AVIATION AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS WHICH COULD
HAVE MILITARY APPLICATION. WE DO NOT KNOW, HOWEVER,
WHETHER AND WHICH GENERAL-AVIATION SALES TO THIRD-WORLD
COUNTRIES ARE DESTINED FOR MILITARY APPLICATION.

3. EGYPT REPORTEDLY IS ATTEMPTING TO PROCURE 150 T-
54/55 TANKS MANUFACTURED IN POLAND. WE ARE UNCLEAR
WHETHER THE CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED. ACCORDING TO AN UNCON-
FIRMED RUMOR, LIBYA MAY HAVE PURCHASED SOME POLISH TANKS IN

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THE PAST.

4. POLAND'S SHIPYARDS AND FACTORIES PRODUCE A WIDE RANGE OF MILITARY HARDWARE AND MUNITIONS. SOME ITEMS MAY VERY WELL BE EXPORTED TO THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES BUT WE CANNOT CONFIRM OR DENY THIS ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AT HAND.

5. ECONOMIC DESIDERATA WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR POLAND IN SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IF HARD CURRENCIES ARE INVOLVED OR IF THE SALES WOULD FINANCE POLISH PURCHASES OF SCARCE RAW MATERIALS OR EQUIPMENT. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION WOULD BE THE POSSIBILITY OF GAINING INFLUENCE WHICH

COULD BE TRANSLATED INTO A PROFITABLE TRADING RELATIONSHIP.

6. IF THE SOVIET UNION WISHED TO UTILIZE POLAND AS A FRONT FOR ARMS SALES OR TRANSFERS OF SOVIET-SUPPLIED WEAPONS, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT THE POLES COULD REFUSE. STATE 015027 MAY INDICATE POLISH INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPLY OF WEAPONS OR MUNITIONS TO THE MPLA. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT THIS REPORT HAS BEEN CORROBORATED.

7. TRANSFER OF WEAPONS ON A MODERATE SCALE TO NON-WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WOULD NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT POLAND'S MILITARY POSTURE. SOME WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN THE POLISH INVENTORY--FOR EXAMPLE, STOCKPILED MIG-15/17'S--WOULD PROBABLY BE RELEASED READILY IF, EXCHANGE IN POLAND COULD PROCUREMENT MODERATE EQUIPMENT.

8. POLISH GENERALS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT POLAND IS NOT NOW FINANCIALLY CAPABLE OF PROCURING NEW WEAPONS SUCH AS THE MIG-23 OR THE SU-17/20. THEY HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO SHOW NO RESENTMENT ABOUT THIS AND THEIR ATTITUDE HAS BEEN ONE OF ACCEPTING WHAT IS ON HAND AND MAKING THE BEST USE OF IT. PURCHASES OF NEW AIRCRAFT AND TANKS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN PUT OFF.

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9. THE POLES HAVE LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE. THEY WOULD LIKE TO REDIRECT THE SAVINGS IN EQUIPMENT AND MANPOWER FOR DOMESTIC ECONOMIC-DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. POLAND IS, HOWEVER, OBLIGED TO SUPPORT SOVIET POLICY IN THE THIRD WORLD. THE POLES WOULD PREFER THAT THIS SUPPORT BE DIPLOMATIC IN NATURE. THEY WOULD DEFER TO THE SOVIETS ON ANY WESTERN INITIATIVE AIMED AT RESTRAINING ARMS TRANSFERS. ANY DECISION ABOUT RESTRICTION OF SALES OR DELIVERIES WOULD BE A POLITICAL DECISION TAKEN IN THE

FIRST INSTANCE BY THE SOVIETS.

DAVIES

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